

1 385. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 376 wherein said low shear
2 rate viscosity is about 70,000 cP or more upon exposure to 0.3 rpm.

1 386. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 377 wherein said low shear
2 rate viscosity is about 100,000 cP or more upon exposure to 0.3 rpm.

1 387. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 378 wherein said low shear
2 rate viscosity is about 70,000 cP or more upon exposure to 0.3 rpm.

1 388. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 379 wherein said low shear
2 rate viscosity is about 70,000 cP or more upon exposure to 0.3 rpm.

1 389. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 380 wherein said low shear
2 rate viscosity is about 70,000 cP or more upon exposure to 0.3 rpm.

1 390. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 377 wherein said
2 concentration is from about 2 to about 20 vol.%.

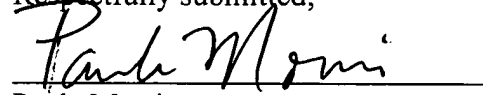
1 391. (New) The water-based drilling fluid of claim 390 wherein said effective
2 fluid loss control properties is a fluid loss of about 5 ml./30 min. or less using the
3 standard dynamic filtration fluid loss test.

REMARKS

The foregoing new claims rearrange the previous claims so that an “aqueous base” is recited as a claim element, rather than being inherent in a “water based” fluid, and so that “low shear rate viscosity” and other elements are recited in the body of the claim rather than in the preamble. The new claims do not narrow the scope of the claims, which were always directed to a water-based fluid having an aqueous base which had low shear rate viscosity, etc. The new format is believed to simplify issues for prosecution.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees in connection with this response, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0997 maintained by Paula D. Morris & Associates, P.C.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paula Morris", is written over a horizontal line.

Paula Morris

Reg. No. 31,516

Paula D. Morris & Associates, P.C.

2925 Briarpark, Suite 930

Houston, Texas 77042

(713)334-5151

FAX (713)334-5157

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT